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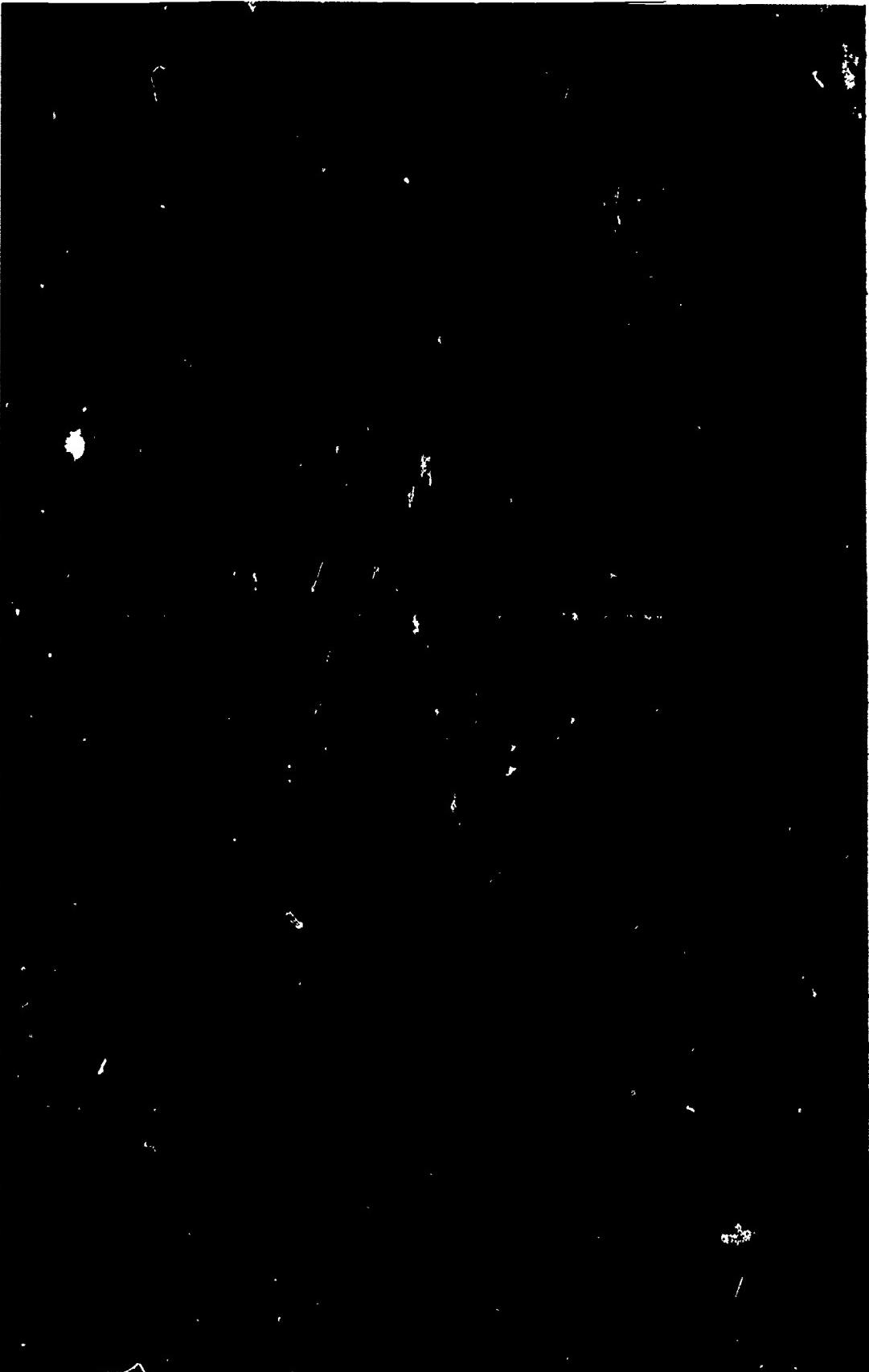
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ABSTRACT

This 756-entry bibliography was prompted by the Serrano decision of the California Supreme Court in August 1971. The items are drawn from the literature on public administration, law, education, and State and local government since 1965. Items are organized under "Inequality of Educational Opportunity," "Financing of Local Public Schools," "State Financing of Local Public Schools," "Federal Assistance in Financing Local Public Schools," and "Programs and Proposals for Financing Local Public Schools." This last section is further subdivided into Schools, Performance Contracting, Voucher System, and Value-Added Tax. An author/subject index is provided.
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**Local Public Schools:
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PREFACE

The California Supreme Court decision last August, concerning public school financing, prompted the compilation of this bibliography. It covers materials in public administration, law, education, and state and local government since 1965. It is concerned with how to provide school money rather than how to spend it.

In the preparation of this bibliography, use has been made of the Libraries of the University of California, Berkeley, particularly the Education-Psychology, Graduate Social Science, Law School, and Institute of Governmental Studies Libraries.

To the many officials throughout the country who have provided me with materials, I make grateful acknowledgment. To my colleagues in the Institute of Governmental Studies for their assistance, to Judy Rasmussen for her part in preparing the manuscript for publication, and to John Barr Tompkins for his reading of the manuscript, I express my gratitude.

Dorothy C. Tompkins

July 1972

CONTENTS,

	Page
Inequality of Educational Opportunity.....	1
Financing of Local Public Schools.....	14
State Financing of Local Public Schools.....	24
Federal Assistance in Financing Local Public Schools...	60
Programs and Proposals for Financing Local Public	
Schools.....	68
Performance Contracting.....	68
Voucher System.....	75
Value-added Tax.....	81
Index.....	90

INEQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

"The distinctive and priceless function of education in our society, warrants, indeed compels, our treating it as a fundamental interest.... Education is essential in maintaining what several commentators have termed free enterprise democracy--that is, preserving an individual's opportunity to compete successfully in the economic marketplace, despite a disadvantaged background.... Education is universally relevant... public education continues over a lengthy period of life--between 10 and 13 years. Few other government services have such sustained, intensive contact with the recipient.... Education is unmatched in the extent to which it molds the personality of the youth of society.... Education is so important that the state has made it compulsory."

California. Supreme Court
Serrano v. Priest, no. L.A. 29820. 5 C. 3d 584
(August 30, 1971) 1

California school financing scheme flunks equal protection clause test. United States Law Week
40: 1033-34, 2128-29, September 14, 1971 2

On August 30, 1971, the California Supreme Court found that "the California public school financing system with its substantial dependence on local property taxes and resultant wide disparities in school revenue, violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.... Recognizing as we must that the right to an education in our public schools is a fundamental interest which cannot be conditioned on wealth, we can discern no compelling state purpose necessitating the present methods of financing.... Such a system cannot withstand constitutional challenge and must fall before the equal protection clause."

The Court modified its Serrano opinion on October 21, 1971, by pointing out that it did not constitute a final judgment on the merits and that the existing system of school finance is to remain in effect until it has been found unconstitutional and replaced by an appropriate new system (United States Law Week 40: 2339, December 7, 1971).

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FINANCING OF LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Local public schools are financed mainly by local property taxes, and have been for many years. However, American education is not working well for millions of children, according to the President's Commission on School Finance. In addition to statewide funding of local education, the Commission recommended that the federal government provide funds (\$4.6-7.8 billion) over five years to assist states to make the transition from local to statewide school financing, that school districts be permitted to use some local taxes to supplement state funds for schools, and that local school boards be given wide latitude to use resources provided by the state to best meet the local needs and demands.

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PROGRAMS AND PROPOSALS FOR
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Performance Contracting

Under performance contracting, private industry--producers of teaching materials and electronic or computerized instruction machinery--go into the schools and, in return for a fee, attempt to raise the level of student achievement, particularly among the disadvantaged. If a contracting company fails to produce the level agreed upon with a local school board, it refunds part of the fee.

In March 1969, three school districts in Texarkana (Texas and Arkansas) were awarded a planning grant by the U.S. Office of Education under the Dropout Prevention Amendment (Title 8 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act). The Texarkana School District contracted with the Institute for Politics and Planning for management support and program planning assistance. The U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity launched a major performance contracting project costing between \$3.5 and \$5.5 million and involving 12,000 to 34,000 students. When school began in September 1970, 24 different districts were selected for implementation of the approaches of six different companies.

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INDEX

- Aaron, Henry J., 115, 687
Abelson, Stuart, 4
Abt Associates, 670
Adams, John K., 5, 6
Alexander, C.K., 472
Alexander, Orville, 290
Alkin, Marvin C., 256
Allen, Dwight H., 163
Allen, James E., Jr., 152, 174, 175, 625
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, 623, 624
American Association of School Administrators, 116
American Conservative Union, 626
American Council on Education, 117, 118
American Federation of Teachers, 750
American Political Science Association, 488
Anderson, J. W., 339
Anderson, Wendell R., 357
Andrews, Frederick, 48
Areen, Judith, 627, 640
Arizona-School financing, 60, 224
Arkansas. Legislative Council, 225
Arnold, Max P., 288
Arons, Stephen, 640
Association of School Business Officials of the United States, 176

Baggett, Bryce, 391
Bailey, Stephen K., 474
Baker, John H., 481
Banovetz, James M., 293
Barker, Phyllis A., 713
Barkin, David, 574, 375, 536
Barlow, Robin, 119
Barr, Charles W., 127
Barr, W. Montfort, 159
Barro, S. M., 162
Bartlett, Charles, 689

Bateman, Worth, 7
 Battelle Memorial Institute, 418
Beam, David R., 293
Beasley, Douglas, 690
Beckler, John, 628
Behavioral Research Laboratories, 5+2, 5/1
Bell, Alphonzo, 500
Bell, Don, 691
Bendixsen, Marian F., 35, 591
Bensfield, James A., 78
Benson, Charles S., 120, 177, 202, 254
Bentley, Fred H., 407
Benton, E. Maxwell, 226, 227, 475
Berke, Joel S., 121, 122, 393, 496
Berson, Minnie P., 540, 541
Berube, Maurice R., 629
Bess, Donovan, 542
Billings, R. Bruce, 224
Bird, Richard M., 717
Blischke, Charles, 152, 543-45
Boehne, Edward G., 305, 753
Boesel, David, 634
Bogan, Eugene F., 692
Bonser, Charles F., 712
Borick, Gary D., 546
Boutwell, William D., 547, 630
Boynton, Ralph E., 8
Branan, Karen, 631
Break, George F., 695
Brock, W. E., 616
Broder, Leonard, 340
Brookings Institution, 693, 694
Brown, Peter, 7
Brown, Robert C., 9, 497
Browning, R. Stephen, 143
Brownlee, O. H., 368, 369
Brozen, Yale, 626
Bruno, James E., 178, 179
Burke, Arvid J., 412, 476

- California
Advisory Commission on Tax Reform, 228, 229, 695
Council on Intergovernmental Relations, 230
Department of Education
Division of Public School Administration, 231, 232
Intradepartmental Committee on Federal Programs, 477
State Board of Education, 199, 201-03
School Support Committee, 233
Statewide Council on Long-Range School Finance Planning, 234
State Committee on Public Education, 235
Department of Finance. Tax Research Group, 236
Federal aid programs, 477-79, 481
Governor, 237, 242, 239
See also Reagan, Ronald
Governor's Commission on Educational Reform, 238
Judicial Council, 10
Legislative-Executive Tax Study Group, 239
Legislature
Assembly
Committee on Education, 240, 632
Committee on Revenue and Taxation, 241, 242
Interim Committee on Education, 243
Interim Committee on Revenue and Taxation, 244
Constitution Revision Commission, 245
Joint Legislative Budget Committee. Office of the Legislative Analyst, 246-51, 478
- California
Legislature
Senate
Committee on Education, 11, 633
Fact Finding Committee on Education, 248, 252, 479
Select Committee on School District Finance, 11
Property tax, 229, 230, 238, 250, 252, 270
See also Cases--Serrano v. Priest
School finance, 1-45, 49, 51, 55, 226-72, 601
Supreme Court, 1-45
University, Berkeley. Institute of Governmental Studies, 695
University, Los Angeles. Institute of Government and Public Affairs, 255, 256, 696
Vouchers, 623, 624, 632, 633, 638
California Chamber of Commerce, 257
California Taxpayers' Association, 634
Calvin, Allen, 634
Cameron, Peter C., 176
Campbell, Alan K., 68, 123
Campbell, Robert E., 548
Cantor, Arnold, 697
Carpenter, Polly, 602
Carr, Ray A., 635
Carter, Robert L., 69
Cases, Court, 46, 59, 65, 75, 98, 149
Burris v. Wilkerson, 46
Hargrave v. Kirk, 46
Hollins v. Shoftall, 60
McGinnis v. Shapiro, 46
MacInnes v. Ogilvie, 50
Robinson v. Cahill, 57
Rodriguez v. San Antonio Independent School District, 54, 67

- Cases, Court
Serrano v. Priest, 1-45.
 67, 188, 310, 316, 416
Spano v. Board of Education
 of Lakeland Central
 School, 58
Sweetwater County Planning
 Committee v. Hinkle, 67
Van Dusartz v. Hatfield,
 63, 67
Cass, James, 549
Cassidy, Joseph, 15
Catholic University. Center
 for National Policy Review,
 16
Center for Applied Research
 in Education, 124
Center for the Study of Pub-
 lic Policy, 622
Center for Urban Education,
 480
Chamber of Commerce of the
 United States, 698
Cherry Creek, 586
Chicago, Ill.-Schools, 289
Chicago, University. Center
 for Policy Study, 70
Childress, Jack R., 131
Citizens League of Minneap-
 olis and Hennepin County,
 358-60
Citizens Research Council of
 Michigan, 341-43
Claremont Men's College. In-
 stitute for Studies in
 Federalism, 481
Clark, Lindley H., Jr., 745
Cohen, David K., 50
Cohen, Edwin S., 160
Coleman, James S., 71, 74,
 93
Colman, William G., 180
Colorado
 Legislative Council, 273,
 274
 School financing, 273-75
Colorado Public Expenditure
 Council, 275
Committee for Economic Devel-
 opment, 71, 125, 699
Committee of Seventy, 440
Communications Workers of
 America, 750
Community-school financial
 relationships, 127
Conant, James B., 193
Conference on...
 Alternative Financing of
 Education, 122
 Economic Progress, 126
 State Financing of Public
 Schools, 173
 Testing Problems, 579
Conference to Review...Nation-
 al Education Finance Proj-
 ect, 399
Congress of Cities, 172
Congressional Quarterly, Inc.,
 473
Congressional Quarterly Serv-
 ice, 482
Connecticut
 Commission to Study...Met-
 ropolitan Government, 276
 General Assembly. Interim
 Committee on Education,
 277
 School financing, 277-80
 State Revenue Task Force,
 278
 University. Institute of
 Public Service, 279
Connecticut Public Expendi-
 ture Council, Inc., 280
Constitution and equal educa-
 tion opportunity, 70, 73,
 163
 See also U.S. Constitution
Coons, John E., 17, 18, 32,
 43, 182-84, 636
Cooper, Paul D., 160
Corporation income tax, 719,
 741
Council of Planning Librar-
 ians, 101, 127
Council of State Chambers of
 Commerce, 149
Council of the Great City
 Schools, 289
Cox, Ronald W., 259, 260
Coyne, John R., Jr., 637
Coyne, Thomas J., 700

- Crawford, George J., 191
Cresap, McCormick and Pa et, Inc., 102
Culbertson, Jack, 128
Curran, William J., 20
Cuyahoga County, Ohio-School districts, 419

Dahl, David S., 370
Daly, Charles U., 70
Daniere, Andre, 331
Davis, Otto A., 70
Dees, John W., 416
Dentler, Robert A., 640
Detroit, Mich.-Metropolitan school finance, 340
Dickinson, William E., 593
Dimond, Paul R., 43
Dochterman, Clifford L., 52
Dorsett Educational System, 549, 608
Dow, John G., 501
Doyle, Denis P., 22, 638
Drinan, Robert F., 484
Due, John F., 701, 702
Dye, Thomas R., 185
Dyer, Henry S., 74
Dykes, Stephen E., 241

Ebel, Robert D., 703
Ecker-Racz, L. L., 186, 187
Education and Public Affairs, 107
Education Commission of the States, 23, 52, 144, 188-97
Educational Research and Development Council of the Twin Cities, 159
Educational Testing Service, 114, 579
Eisentruit, George M., 468
Elam, Stanley, 564
Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 474, 480, 483, 484, 495, 521, 527, 536
Elford, George, 641

Falcon, James C., 114
Farber, M.A., 58
Farquhar, J.A., 601
Farr, Roger, 566

Federal assistance in financing local public schools, 140, 152, 473-538, 634
Federation of Tax Administrators, 53
Filogamo, Martin J., 567
Financing of local public schools, 100-72
Finley, Grace J., 568
First National City Bank of New York, 705
Fleischman, Manly, 396
Fleming, Barbara, 642
Florida
 Department of Education, 283
 Legislature
 House Appropriations Committee, 284
 Legislative Intern Program, 285
 School financing, 46, 281-85
Flournoy, Houston I., 24
Forte, Francesco, 706
Fowlkes, Frank V., 707
Freeman, Roger, 485, 570
Frieden, Brian, 546
Fuller, Edgar, 442
Fund for Public Policy Research, 160

Garber, Lee O., 117, 118
Garms, Walter I., 412
Garvue, Robert J., 130
Gary, Ind.-School contracts, 192, 540-42, 571, 577, 578, 583-85, 589, 602, 617
Gauerke, Warren E., 131
Gaydos, Joseph M., 747
Gehret, Kenneth, 572
George, W. Elmer, 286
George Washington University
 State-Local Finances Project, 203
Georgia-Property tax, 286
Gillis, James C., Jr., 573
Gilroy, Calif.-Performance contracting, 602
Ginsberg, Eli, 640
Gittell, Marilyn, 132
Glennan, Thomas, 192, 643

- Goldstein, Stephen R., 25
 Governmental Research Institute, Cleveland, 419, 420
 Governmental Research Institute, Lincoln, 376
 Granam, Robert L., 75
 Grand Rapids, Mich.-Performance contracting, 602
 Grants-in-aid, Federal, 514
See also Federal assistance in financing local public schools
 Grasberger, Friedrich J., 414
 Great Plains Agricultural Council, 167
 Greater Toledo Municipal League, 427-31
 Greenbaum, William N., 39
 Greene, Leroy, 262
 Grieder, Calvin, 26, 133
 Guthrie, James W., 76, 77, 134, 356, 486
 Hack, Walter G., 135
 Hady, Thomas F., 167
 Hagman, Donald G., 696
 Hall, George R., 192, 602-06
 Hamilton, Lee, 27, 149
 Harberger, Arnold C., 698, 708
 Harper, Edwin H., 232
 Harris, Laurence, 391
 Harrison, Charles H., 574
 Harrison, Forest W., 222
 Harriss, C. Lowell, 709
 Harvard Center for Law and Education, 78
 Hawaii
 State financing of schools, 173, 287
 University. Legislative Reference Bureau, 287
 Hawkins, Joseph F., 58
 Hayden, Francis G., 457
 Hayward, Gerald C., 635
 Heller, Robert W., 644
 Herbers, John, 101
 Hettich, Walter, 198, 536
 Hey, Robert P., 136
 Hickey, John K., 28
 Hickrod, G. Alan, 79
 Hillenbrand, Bernard F., 137
 Hirsch, Werner Z., 255
 Hogan, Lloyd L., 403
 Horowitz, Harold W., 30, 81
 Hottelman, Girard D., 575
 Hovey, Harold A., 507
 Howe, Harold, 11, 138
 Idaho
 Legislature. Interim Tax Study Committee, 288
 Property tax, 288
 Illinois
 Constitution Research Group, 290
 Governor, 291
 Legislative Council, 292
 Northern Illinois University. Center for Governmental Studies, 293
 School financing, 46, 289-96
 School Problems Commission, 294-96
 Income tax for education, 414, 439
 Indiana
 Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy, 297-99, 712
 Legislative Council, 300, 301
 School financing, 297-305
 University
 Bureau of Government Research, 302
 School of Business, 303-05, 713
 School of Education, 159
 Inequality of educational opportunity, 1-99, 331
 Institute for Chief State School Officers, 142
 International Association of Assessing Officers, 29, 139
 International Future Research Conference, 255
 Iowa
 Governor's Conference on Education, 306
 School financing, 306-11

- Iowa
 Taxation Study Committee,
 308
 University. Institute of
 Public Affairs, 309
Iverson, Evan, 438

James, H. Thomas, 128, 140
Janssen, Peter, 576, 645
Jarrett, James L., 71
Jencks, Christopher, 93, 152,
 192, 640, 646-49
Jesser, David L., 148
Johns, Roe L., 141, 148, 157,
 158
Johns, Thomas L., 169
Johnson, Ray H., 232
Johnson, Virgil K., 82
Jones, Howard R., 124
Jones, Thomas H., 111
Jordan, K. F., 196

Kansas
 Legislative Coordinating
 Council, 312
 Legislature
 Joint Committee...
 School Finance, 313
 State Tax Structure,
 314
 Special Committee on As-
 sessment and Taxation,
 315
 School financing, 312-16
Kaponen, Niilo, 276
Karsh, Norman, 101
Karst, Kenneth L., 30
Kaufman, Bel, 577
Keating, Barbara E., 487
Keiter, Robert B., 31, 46
Kelly, James A., 142,
 394
Kentucky
 Legislative Research Com-
 mission, 317-19
 School financing, 317-23,
 375
 University
 Center for the Study of
 State and Local Govern-
 ment Economics, 320

Kentucky
 University
 Office of Development
 Services and Business
 Research, 321
 Western Kentucky University,
 318
Keppel, Francis, 199
Keyserling, Leon H., 126
Kiesling, Herbert J., 297
Kindl, Kathryn L., 447
King, George, 650
King, Neil J., 651
King, Seth S., 578
Kirk, Russell, 83
Kirp, David, 43, 74, 93
Knoll, F. Jeannette, 302
Kohler, Marie A., 283
Kolesar, John, 54
Kotin, Lawrence, 200
Krauss, Mel, 717
Kravitt, Jason H., 75
Krughoff, Robert M., 652
Kurland, Philip B., 70

Lambert, Sam M., 653
LaNoue, George R., 654, 655
Lausberg, Clem, 284, 285
Lawrence, David, 656
Lawyers' Committee for Civil
 Rights Under Law, 32, 143,
 144
League of Women Voters
 California, 263-65, 657
 Minnesota, 361
Legler, John, 374
Lekachman, Robert, 658
Lessinger, Leon M., 125, 163,
 546, 579
Levin, Betsy, 271
Levin, Henry M., 125, 659
Levin, Joel M., 623
Leyton, Peter, 144
Liberty-Eylau, Tex.-Perfor-
 mance contracting, 602
Lile, Stephen E., 320
Lincoln, Neb.-Public schools,
 376
Lindholm, Richard W., 145,
 160, 432, 434, 715-20, 725,
 739, 750

- Lindman, Erick L., 266
Lindsay, John V., 197
Lorette, Robert L., 412
Los Angeles Bureau of Municipal Research, 267, 268
Lutz, Harley L., 146
Lyon, David W., 445, 674
- McAndrew, Gordon, 192
McCall, Tom, 435, 436
McCann, Walter, 640, 664
McKim, Bruce T., 228
McLoone, Eugene, 187, 222, 410
McMahon, Patrick C., 288
McMurrin, Sterling M., 71, 125
Maeroff, Gene I., 147
Maine
 Legislature. Legislative Research Committee, 324
 School financing, 324, 325
 University. Bureau of Public Administration, 325
Maine Property Tax Conference, 325
Malis, Mrs. Louis A., 289
Marland, Sidney P., 661
Martin, Reed, 580
Maryland
 Commission to Study...Public Education, 326
 Legislative Council, 327
 School financing, 326-30
 Study Commission on the State Tax Structure, 328
Massachusetts
 Advisory Council on Education, 331, 332
 Department of Education, 333, 334
 General Court
 Senate, 335
 Special Commission... Educational Facilities, 336
 Financial Aid to Non-public Schools, 661
 Master Tax Plan, 337
 Legislative Research Council, 338
- Massachusetts
 School financing, 331-38
Masten, John T., Jr., 730
Matthiasson, Björn, 721
Mecklenburger, James A., 581-86
Merriam, Robert E., 194
Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities Area, 362, 363
Metropolitan fiscal disparities, 210, 213
Michelman, Frank I., 84
Michigan
 Department of Education, 344-46, 587
 Executive Office. Bureau of Programs and Budget, 346
 Governor, 339, 341, 342, 346-49
 Governor's Commission on Educational Reform, 350
 Governor's Special Commission on Land Use, 351
 Legislative Fiscal Agency, 352
 Office of Planning Coordination, 353
 School financing, 198, 339-56
 Value-added tax, 727, 735
Milliken, William G., 346, 354, 355
 See also Michigan. Governor
Milwaukee Metropolitan Area-School financing, 207
Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area, 370
Minnesota
 Governor, 364
 Governor's Advisory Committee on Education, 365
 Governor's Property Tax Advisory Committee, 366
 Legislature. Elementary and Secondary Education Commission, 367
 School financing, 47, 51, 63, 357-70
 State Planning Agency, 368

- Mississippi
 Department of Education, 371
 School financing, 371
- Missorten, Walter, 722
- Missouri
 School District Reorganization Commission, 372
 School financing, 372-75
- Monroe County Educational Planning Committee, 414
- Moore, Hullihen W., 460
- Moretti, Bob, 261
- Morgan, Daniel C., Jr., 457
- Morphet, Edgar L., 141, 148
- Morris, Alf, 723
- Moscone, George, 257
- Moscove, Francine, 589
- Mosher, Edith K., 474
- Munger, Frank J., 488
- Murphy, Betty, 590
- Myers, Phyllis, 33, 101
- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., 495
- National Association of Business Economists, 719
- National Association of Manufacturers, 149
- National Association of Secondary School Principals, 663, 664
- National Clearinghouse for Legal Services, 150
- National Committee for Support of the Public Schools, 85, 144, 151-53, 201, 202, 591
- National Conference on Government, 208
- National Education Association, 317, 653, 676
 Commission on Professional Rights..., 322
 Committee on Educational Finance, 154-56, 203, 256
 Research Division, 592
- National Education Finance Project, 157-59, 399
- National Governors' Conference, 724
- National League of Cities, 204
- National Municipal League, 208
- National School Boards Association, 435, 593
- National Tax Association, 160, 725
- Nebraska
 Legislature, 378
 School financing, 376-79
 State Department of Education, 379
- Neitring, Diana L., 81
- Nevada
 Governor, 380
 Legislative Counsel Bureau, 381
 School financing, 380, 381
- New Hampshire
 General Court. Fiscal Committee, 382
 State financing of schools, 173, 382
- New Jersey
 County and Municipal Government Study Commission, 383
 Governor's Welfare Study Commission, 384
 Legislature. Senate and Assembly Committees, 385
 School financing, 47, 49, 56, 57, 60, 383-90
 State Aid to School Districts Study Commission, 386, 387
 Superior Court, Hudson County, 57
 Tax Policy Committee, 388
- New Jersey Taxpayers Association, 389
- New Mexico
 Educational Research Committee, 392
 School financing, 391, 392
- New York City, N.Y.
 ESEA, 480
 School financing, 393, 394

- New York State
 Commission on the Quality, Cost and Financing of...
 Education, 395, 404
 Department of Audit and Control, 397
 Federal aid, 489, 490
 School financing, 58, 60, 197, 198, 393-415
 State Education Department, 399, 400
 Bureau of Educational Finance Research, 401-07, 489
 Division of Educational Finance, 408, 490
 Information Center on Education, 409
 Supreme Court, Westchester County, 58
 Temporary State Commission on the Constitutional Convention, 398
 New York State Association of City Councils, 197
 New York State Conference of Mayors and Other Municipal Officials, 35
 New York State Educational Conference Board, 410
 Newark, N.J., Office of Economic Development, 390
 Norfolk, Va.-Performance contracting, 602
 North Carolina
 Governor's Study Commission on the Public School System, 417
 School financing, 416, 417
 Northern Illinois University, Center for Governmental Studies, 293
 Norton, John K., 126
 Nyquist, Ewald B., 399, 400
 Oakland, William H., 726
 Ogilvie, Richard B., 291
 Ohio
 General Assembly, House, Bipartisan Select Committee on Tax Revision, 421
 Ohio
 Legislative Service Commission, 422, 423
 School financing, 418-23
 Ohio State University Research Foundation, 108
 Opinion Research Corporation, Princeton, N.J., 685
 Oregon
 Department of Education, 433
 Governor, 434-36
 Governor's Education Improvement Advisory Commission, 433, 437
 School financing, 432-39
 University
 Bureau of Governmental Research and Service, 438
 ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management, 595
 School Study Council, 439
 Osman, Jack W., 491
 PACE, 424, 425
 Papke, James A., 703, 727
 Pauly, Mark V., 161
 Paus, Gregory S., 439
 Pearson, James B., 752
 Pechman, Joseph A., 693
 Peck, John E., 205, 206, 298, 303
 Pennsylvania
 Board of Education, 441, 442
 School financing, 440-47
 Performance contracts, 101, 112, 152, 194, 467, 539-621
 Phelps, James, 355
 Philadelphia, Pa.-Financial crisis, 440, 445
 Phillips, Lawrence C., 728
 Pierce, Wendell H., 192
 Pleeter, Saul, 304
 Pogue, Thomas F., 729
 Polley, John W., 412
 Porter, Otha L., 599
 Pratt Institute, 413
 Program for Action by Citizens in Education, 424, 425

- Property taxes, 4-45, 53, 54, 65, 89, 138, 145, 170, 178, 181, 225, 501, 512, 681, 749
California, 229, 230, 238, 244, 248, 250, 252, 253, 270
Colorado, 275
Florida, 282
Georgia, 286
Idaho, 288
Iowa, 311
Massachusetts, 335
Michigan, 339, 340, 350
Minnesota, 366, 368, 370
New Jersey, 388
Oregon, 439

Quattlebaum, Charles A., 530
Quindry, Kenneth E., 730
Quinn, Pamela P., 443

Rand Corporation, 162, 192, 601-07
Ranney, Victoria, 290
Rapp, M. L., 602
Raymond, George M., 413
Reagan, Ronald, 261
 See also California-Governor
Reed, Wayne O., 492
Reese, Bonnie, 472
Reinhold, Robert, 36
Resnick, Michael A., 37
Reutter, E. Edmund, Jr., 117
Revenue sharing, 534
Reynolds, Jerry D., 609
Ribich, Thomas I., 663
Ridenour, Patricia, 316
Ridenour, Philip, 316
Riew, John, 207
Riles, Wilson, 528, 634
Ripon Society of Nashville, 668
Rochester Center for Governmental and Community Research, Inc., 414
Rolph, Earl R., 748
Rosenthal, Jack, 610
Rossmiller, Richard A., 469
Rowland, Howard S., 493

Rural population, 172
Ryan, Charlotte, 332
Ryan, Leo, 634, 669

Sabulao, Cesar M., 79
St. Louis, Mo. Public Schools, 373
San Francisco, Calif. Board of Education, 670
Sanchez, David, 634
Saretsky, Gary, 611
Saunders, Charles B., Jr., 116, 534
Schiller, Jeffry, 612
Schilling, Richard C., 490
Schoettle, Ferdinand P., 87
Schwartz, Ronald, 613, 614
Seitz, Reynolds C., 118
Selden, David, 640
Semple, Robert B., Jr., 731
Sensenbaugh, James A., 329
Sgontz, L. G., 729
Shaffer, Helen B., 164
Shanks, Hershel, 88
Shannon, John, 91, 152, 208, 325
Shannon, Thomas A., 269
Shoup, Carl S., 732
Silard, John, 23, 89, 90
Silk, Leonard, 733-35
Simat, Heilleisen and Eicher, Inc., 106
Simonetti, Gilbert J., 736
Sizer, Theodore R., 671
Sklar, Sigmund L., 105, 109
Smith, Dan T., 680, 737, 748
Smith, George C., 149
Smith, Mark C., 412
Soule, Don M., 320, 321
South Carolina. General Assembly. Committee to Study... Revenue for Educational Purposes, 448
South Dakota
 Legislative Research Council, 449-52
 School financing, 449-52
Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy, 495
Spaght, Samuel, 546
Stafford, F. F., 444

- Stam, Jerome M., 167
 Star, Jack, 615
 State funding of education, 101, 124, 130, 141, 151, 173-472
 Steinhilber, August W., 163
 Stephenson, Jack G., 323
 Stephenson, Richard C., 323
 Stiles, Lynn A., 497
 Stone Soup, 548
 Stronberg, Joel B., 424, 425
 Stuart, Patricia, 279
 Stucker, James P., 192, 604-07
 Sugarman, Stephan, 23, 636
 Sullivan, Clara K., 738
 Sullivan, Neil, 634
 Sumner, G. C., 602
 Surrey, Stanley S., 739, 751
 Swenson, Norman P., 537
 Syracuse University Research Corporation, 496

 Talley, Wayne K., 321
 Tax Foundation, 165, 740
 Tax Institute of America, 497, 741, 742
 Tax Reform Research Group, 61
 Tax Research Conference, Sioux City, 311
 Taxation With Representation, 743
 Temple University, 440
 Tennessee-School financing, 375
 Texarkana, Ark.-School contract, 192, 541, 549, 564, 567, 598, 602, 621
 Texas
 Committee on State and Local Tax Policy, 453
 Governor's Committee on Public School Education, 454, 455
 Legislative Council, 456
 School financing, 47, 51, 55, 56, 64, 453-58
 University. Institute of Public Affairs, 457
 Texas Research League, 458
 Thackrey, Russell I., 673

 Thatcher, George W., 426
 Thomas, J. Alan, 190, 20^o, 345, 441
 Tiedt, Sidney W., 498
 Toledo Area Governmental Research Association, 427-31
 Twin Cities Area-Tax policy, 360, 362, 363

 Ukokis, James R., 223
 Ulmer, Melville J., 746
 United States
 Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 41, 62, 91, 113, 166, 173, 190, 210-20, 682, 684-86
 Congress. House, 499-501, 747
 Committee on Education and Labor, 502-09, 628
 Committee on Ways and Means, 748
 Republican Task Force on Education, 510
 Congress. Joint Economic Committee, 749-51
 Congress. Senate, 511-13, 616, 752
 Committee on Government Operations, 514, 515
 Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, 485, 516-22
 Republican Policy Committee, 221
 Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity, 523
 Constitution, 73, 78, 80, 84, 310
 Department of Agriculture, 167
 Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 199, 222, 602, 603
 Ad Hoc Group on School Finance, 524
 Secretary, 527
 Urban Education Task Force, 528

- United States
 Department of the Treasury, 529, 744, 754
 District Court
 Minnesota. Third Division, 63
 Texas. San Antonio Division, 64
 Federal Reserve Bank
 Boston, 92
 Kansas City, 223
 Philadelphia, 445-47, 674, 753
 Library of Congress
 Congressional Research Service, 168
 Legislative Reference Service, 514, 530
 Office of Economic Opportunity, 192, 560, 565, 594, 623, 660, 679
 Office of Education, 93, 169, 334, 474, 507, 525, 526, 625
 President, 531-35, 681-83
 President's Commission on School Finance, 100-14, 166, 220
Upper Midwest Research and Development Council, 370
Urban Coalition, 94, 356
Urban Institute, 95-97, 110, 271
Utah. Legislative Council, 459
Value-added tax, 149, 160, 680-756
Virginia
 Commission to Study...State Aid to Public Schools, 461
 Division of State Planning and Community Affairs, 462
 School financing, 46, 460-62
Vouchers, 101, 112, 152, 192, 194, 622-79
Walker, Mabel, 65, 97, 170
Wanniski, Jude, 745
Wardle, F., 677
Washington
 Legislature
 Joint Committee on Education, 463-65
 Legislative Budget Committee, 466
 Special Levy Study Commission, 467
 School financing, 463-68
 Superintendent of Public Instruction, 468
Washington University. Institute for Urban and Regional Studies, 374, 375, 536
Watson, Philip E., 29
Watson Initiative, 241
Webb, Harold, 29, 171
Wegryn, James, 352
Weidenbaum, Murray L., 537
Weil, Roman L., 626
Weiss, Steven J., 92
West, E. G., 678
Westchester County, N.Y.
 Department of Planning, 415
Western Kentucky University, 318
Westmeyer, Troy R., 66
Westmeyer, Wesley, 66
White, Sharon, 90
Whitman, Ray D., 328
Whitten, Phillip, 671
Wichita, Kan.-Performance contracting, 546
Wicklander, Edgar B., 272
Willingham, Ed, 538, 620, 679
Wilson, Alain B., 93
Wilson, John, 583, 621
Wing, Richard L., 493
Wisconsin
 Governor's Commission on Education, 471
 Legislative Council, 67
 School financing, 469-72
Task Force on Local Government Finance..., 472
University. Department of Educational Administration, 159
Voucher plan, 673

- Wise, Arthur E., 43, 44, 70,
99, 104, 163
Woodard, Francis O.,
135
Woollatt, Lorne H.,
497
Wynne, Edward, 134
- Young Democratic Clubs of
Maryland, 330
Yudof, Mark G., 43
Zazzera, Edmund, 192
Zimmer, John M., 172
Zukosky, Jerome, 45

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